

It's Smart To Be Gallery Wise!

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

NEWS FLASHES

January 16 - 31, 1936

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE: On Monday Evening, January 27th, at 8:00 P.M., Harold Stark will give an illustrated lecture on "Steamboat Gothic" in the Atkins Auditorium.

Mr. Stark, who is a young man of most dynamic personality, is at present a lecturer at the Chicago Art Institute and was formerly a newspaper columnist and later on the staff of the Metropolitan and Minneapolis Museums. He is also the author of "Art in America, 1600-1865".

His subject, "Steamboat Gothic", concerns American Art of the middle nineteenth century, so intimately connected with the river traffic of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, the building of canals and the settling of the Middle West. The Forties and Fifties were the great days of the floating river packet palaces. The steamboat captain was king of the river and of the thriving towns on the banks, and not only his boats, but houses and their decoration were built under the influence of the romantic conception of the Gothic period that prevailed.

Many travelers from Europe, Mrs. Trollope and Dickens included, saw our Middle West from the deck of a steamboat at this time. It was the era of primitive portraits by wandering painters, a new school of native landscape, of Currier and Ives lithographs, Godey's Book and Jenny Lind. It was a lusty age when the last of our master craftsmen were using the newly invented jig-saw to create what passed for architecture.

In connection with the lecture, a group of American Folk Art from the permanent collection will be placed in Gallery XV.

The bringing of Mr. Stark, a nationally famous lecturer on art to the Gallery, is an experiment. It has long been the desire of the Gallery to sponsor a series of lectures by distinguished art authorities. This has been difficult without funds for educational work, but fortunately a small sum for this purpose was made possible by a surplus coming from the series of lectures given last season under the auspices of the Women's Chamber of Commerce. The support of this lecture will make it possible to bring other interesting personalities to Kansas City.

The tickets for Mr. Stark's lecture are 50 cents and may be purchased at the Gallery Information Desk.

SOVIET RUSSIAN EXHIBITION: The Loan Exhibition of Russian Painting which will remain on view until January 27th, is creating great interest. Many are finding it, in its colorful comment on the life of the country, very much like the Polish Exhibition which was one of the most popular held last year.

"The Portrait of a Stage Director" is easily the most forceful painting in the show, but the majority of people are finding "The Collective Farm Woman and Son" to be their favorite and it is perhaps the most competent. The artist, Katzman, is older than the majority of the others. The exquisite coloring in "Springtime" by Igor Grabar is bringing it many votes of popularity.

From a point of view of technique, the wood-engravings in Gallery XV are remarkable. Illustrations for Russian and other authors, they are the most competent group as a whole. Local print makers are fascinated by the ability shown in this technique which is more difficult than woodcuts, and which allows greater delicacy and fluidity of line.

From every point of view, the exhibition should not be missed. A visit to the loan galleries will convince everyone that the rumors that the Soviet government is neglecting culture are entire-

SPECIAL MERINE EXHIBITION: An interesting exhibition of portraits by John C. Merine, one of Kansas City's earliest portrait painters, will be held in Gallery XIII from January 19 to the end of the month.

Merine, who was born in Indiana in 1821, received his training in Cincinnati and, after brief periods of work in Kentucky, Illinois, and Wisconsin, finally settled in Kansas City in 1869. For a long time his studio was at 8th and Main Streets.

Kansas Citizens of prominence flocked to be painted by the artist and in a catalogue of his works, one recognizes the names of many of the men who have been identified with the growth of the city - Colonel Kersey Coates, Major William Warner, Colonel Milton McGee, Reverend Nathan Scarritt, Colonel R. H. Hunt, John J. Mastin, to name but a few.

The collection has been lent by the Municipal Government, the Board of Education, and a number of private owners. It was selected with the assistance of Mr. Merine's daughter, Mrs. Minnie Merine Mann, and should have a great appeal to all who are interested in the early days of our city.

MASTERPIECES OF THE WEEK: For the week of January 19th, the second painting purchased by the Director this summer, a "Portrait of Henri II" by Francois Clouet will be featured as the masterpiece.

Henri II, the son of the more glamorous Francois I, loved but two things in his life, horses and his mistress, Diane de Poitiers. He lost his life by a spear thrust in a great jousting pageant, and it is fitting that this should be an equestrian portrait. Diane was some seventeen years older than the King, but she held his devotion to the end; her colours were white and black, and the new acquisition is painted entirely in these two tones.

The artist, the son of Jean Clouet, was one of the great native painters of 16th century France. The father and son have left a series of portraits of the personages of that period that have never been surpassed.

The period, one of the most important culturally for France as it was then that the Renaissance came north, and the life and personality of the King will be the subject of the lecture which Mr. Gardner will give in the Atkins Auditorium on Wednesday evening, January 22nd.

MANET PORTRAIT: The Gallery announces with justifiable pride the most important acquisition in the field of painting which has been made since the opening. It is Edouard Manet's "Portrait of Lina Campineanu", the delightfully appealing, winsome likeness of a French child which was the popular second choice in our great French 19th Century show of last spring.

Manet takes his place as one of the three most important men in the field of 19th century painting, sharing this honor with Delacroix and Cézanne. Fine canvases by him are the rarest thing on the art market today. The "Lina Campineanu" is not only one of his most important portraits, but is so attractive that it will be an instantaneous favorite.

The fascinating life of the artist, the condemnation of his paintings which were misunderstood, and the dominant part played in his life by his favorite model, Victorine Meurand, and his two women pupils, will be the subject of the lecture to be given by Mr. Gardner in Atkins Auditorium on Wednesday evening, January 29.

This new acquisition will be featured as the Masterpiece of the Week for the seven days beginning January 26th.

SUNDAY CONCERT: The Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota will give its monthly concert in Atkins Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, January 19th at 3:30 P.M. The program will be devoted largely to Russian music.

FRIENDS OF ART: At the annual meeting held on January 12th, the Friends of Art announced their first purchase, the "Portrait of Carl Ruggles" by Thomas Hart Benton. The latest canvas by the artist and considered by all to be his finest work, it has been hung in Gallery XXX. With this purchase, four paintings in all by contemporary American artists have come to the Gallery through the Friends of Art.

At the same meeting, Mr. D. L. James was elected President of the society.

TOPEKA ART DEMONSTRATIONS: Miss O'Donnell, head of our Junior educational activities, spent the week end of January 11th in Topeka, assisting the Junior Charities Group in beginning its educational work with children. The program will be based on our demonstration-tours that are being given with so much success to all sixth grade pupils, and the first lecture given by Miss O'Donnell on Sunday was devoted to sculpture. Two hundred and fifty school children made up the first audience.

It is with gratification that the Gallery receives this recognition from sister institutions, and it is hoped that other art guilds and museums in this section of the country will avail themselves of our experience and facilities.

GOYA LOAN: Our "Portrait of Omulryan" by Goya is to be one of the featured canvases in an important loan exhibition of that artist's work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Mr. Herbert E. Winlock, the Director, wrote that they were borrowing only five of the outstanding paintings by Goya in America and requested that our portrait be one of them.

CHINESE EXHIBITION: Mr. Laurence Sickman writes from London that our loans to the great Chinese Show look superb, even among the world's greatest oriental treasures. He found that our recent Chinese Textile Exhibition was far more interesting than the group they are showing, and that our loans to the show are the recipients of the greatest praise from all the scholars of the world.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Gallery Tours - Jan. 21 - Clouet Portrait	- Mr. Gardner
Jan. 16 - 31 " 22 - Dutch-Flemish-German Ptg.	- Mr. Freeman
at 2 p.m. No " 23 - Chinese Ceramics	- Miss Hughes
charge to join " 24 - American Wing and Amer-ican Painting	- Miss Jackson
Jan. 28 - Manet Portrait	- Mr. Gardner
" 29 - American Indian	- Miss Hughes
" 30 - Japanese Art	- Mr. Sickman
" 31 - English and French Ptg.	- Mr. Wittmann
Evening Lectures - Jan. 22 - French 16th C. Ptg.	- Mr. Gardner
8 p.m. in the " 29 - Manet	- Mr. Gardner
Atkins Auditorium.	

SPECIAL LECTURE: Jan. 27 - 8 p.m. "Steamboat Gothic" - Mr. Harold Stark